

State Water Resources Control Board  
Division of Water Quality --- Water Quality Certification Program

**Public Notice of Application for Water Quality Certification (Dredge/Fill Projects)  
and  
Notice of Intent to Adopt a Mitigated Negative Declaration  
for the  
Pacific Gas and Electric Company (PG&E)  
Contra Costa-Moraga 230 Kilovolt (kV) Reconductoring Project**

State Water Resources Control Board file no. SB12010IN  
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers file no. 2012-00043S

October 9, 2013

Pursuant to federal law (Title 33, United States Code, Section 1341; Clean Water Act Section 401), applicants for a federal license or permit for activities which may discharge to waters of the United States must seek Water Quality Certification from the state or Indian Tribe with jurisdiction. Such Certification is based on a finding that the discharge will meet water quality standards and other applicable requirements. In California, Regional Water Quality Control Boards (Regional Water Boards) issue or deny Certification for discharges within their geographical jurisdiction. The State Water Resources Control Board (State Water Board) has this responsibility for projects affecting waters within two or more Regional Water Board jurisdictions.

PG&E is requesting a Clean Water Act section 401 water quality certification for the subject Project from the State Water Board. The State Water Board must comply with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA; Pub. Resources Code, § 21000 et seq.) when issuing a 401 water quality certification.

The State Water Board, as lead agency for California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) compliance, has directed the preparation of, and intends to adopt, a Mitigated Negative Declaration (MND) for the proposed project, in compliance with the CEQA and State CEQA guidelines. The MND is based on the finding that the proposed project would not have a significant adverse effect on the environment.

The following information is provided in satisfaction of the formal written notice requirement of a proposed MND (CEQA Guidelines, § 15073) and public notice requirements of Section 3858, Title 23, of the California Code of Regulations, which govern the State's Certification Program.

**Applicant:** Pacific Gas and Electric Company (PG&E)

**Applicant Contact:** Ms. Trixie Martelino  
Senior Land Planner  
PG&E Environmental Management  
245 Market Street #1076A  
San Francisco, CA 94105

**Project Name:** Contra Costa-Moraga 230 Kilovolt (kV) Reconductoring Project

**Date of Application:** November 5, 2012

**Affected County:** Contra Costa

**Background:** Emergency capacity of the existing double-circuit Contra Costa-Moraga 230 kV transmission line (CC-Moraga Line) could be exceeded under peak summer or worst-case power flow

conditions. In order to ensure power transmission during peak conditions, PG&E proposes to replace the existing conductors on (i.e., reconductor) the CC-Moraga Line with conductors having an increased emergency rating. As a result, the overarching objective of the project is to increase reliability and responsive support in the service area of the CC-Moraga Line during outages within the local system.

**Project Description:** In order to maintain service reliability and meet increasing electric load demands in Contra Costa and Alameda counties, PG&E is proposing to reconductor the CC-Moraga Line between Contra Costa Power Plant and Moraga substations. The project includes modifications to approximately 56 of 132 existing towers along the line and to equipment at Contra Costa Power Plant Substation, Rossmoor Substation, and Moraga Substation to accept the new conductor. The tower modifications include approximately 47 cage extensions as well as other above-ground reinforcements. Foundation reinforcements would be added to approximately eight towers and switches would be added to two towers. PG&E anticipates that construction of the project would take approximately 12 months within an 18-month window. The project is scheduled to begin construction tentatively in spring 2014, with an energization date in December 2015 or as soon as possible after project construction.

**Project Location:** This project includes modifications to the CC-Moraga Line, an approximately 27-mile line originating at Contra Costa Power Plant Substation, located in Contra Costa County at 3325 Wilbur Avenue in the City of Antioch. The CC-Moraga Line leaves Contra Costa Power Plant Substation and heads generally southwest for approximately 2 miles before passing by the eastern fence line of Contra Costa Substation, located at 2111 Hillcrest Avenue in the City of Antioch. The line then spans an active railroad track and State Route 4 near Hillcrest Avenue in City of Antioch. From this point, it continues southwest through residential portions of the City of Antioch for approximately 4 miles. The line continues cross-country for approximately 4 miles in a generally southwest direction until entering the City of Clayton. From this point, the line spans residential land uses within the cities of Clayton and Concord, and Clayton Quarry for approximately 3.5 miles. The line continues southwest for approximately 3 miles cross-country, where it enters the City of Walnut Creek. The line continues southwest and spans open space and residential uses for approximately 2.7 miles where it spans Interstate-680 and enters unincorporated Contra Costa County. After spanning approximately 1 mile of residential areas, the line re-enters the City of Walnut Creek and travels southwest for approximately 1.6 miles, spanning residential areas and a golf course before entering the City of Lafayette. From this point, the line heads west for approximately 1 mile to the Lafayette/Moraga Regional Trail, then enters the Town of Moraga and turns northwest for approximately 1.6 miles to Campolindo High School. The line then heads southwest for approximately 1.2 miles to the City of Orinda, spanning residential areas and Orinda Oaks Park. From this point, the line continues southwest to Moraga Substation, which is located near the intersection of Lost Valley Drive and Valley View Drive in the City of Orinda.

\*See Figure 1 for the Project Location Map

**Public Review Period:** Water Board staff are proposing to regulate this project pursuant to Section 401 of the Clean Water Act (33 USC 1341) and/or Porter-Cologne Water Quality Control Act authority. In addition, staff will consider all comments submitted in writing and received at this office by mail during a 30-day comment period for the CEQA document that begins on the first date of issuance of this letter and ends at 5:00 p.m. on the last day of the comment period. The 30-day review period for the CEQA document starts on October 9, 2013 and ends on November 7, 2013. Written comments should be submitted to the following address:

**State Water Resources Control Board Staff Contact:**

*Brian Dailey, Environmental Scientist*  
Water Quality Certification Unit  
Division of Water Quality, State Water Board  
1001 I Street, 15<sup>th</sup> Floor, #57B  
Sacramento, CA 95814

Copies of the IS/MND may be obtained, or reviewed during normal business hours, by contacting Mr. Dailey at (916) 341-5462 or [Brian.Dailey@waterboards.ca.gov](mailto:Brian.Dailey@waterboards.ca.gov), or by visiting the [State Water Board website at: http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/water\\_issues/programs/cwa401/notices/2013.shtml](http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/water_issues/programs/cwa401/notices/2013.shtml).

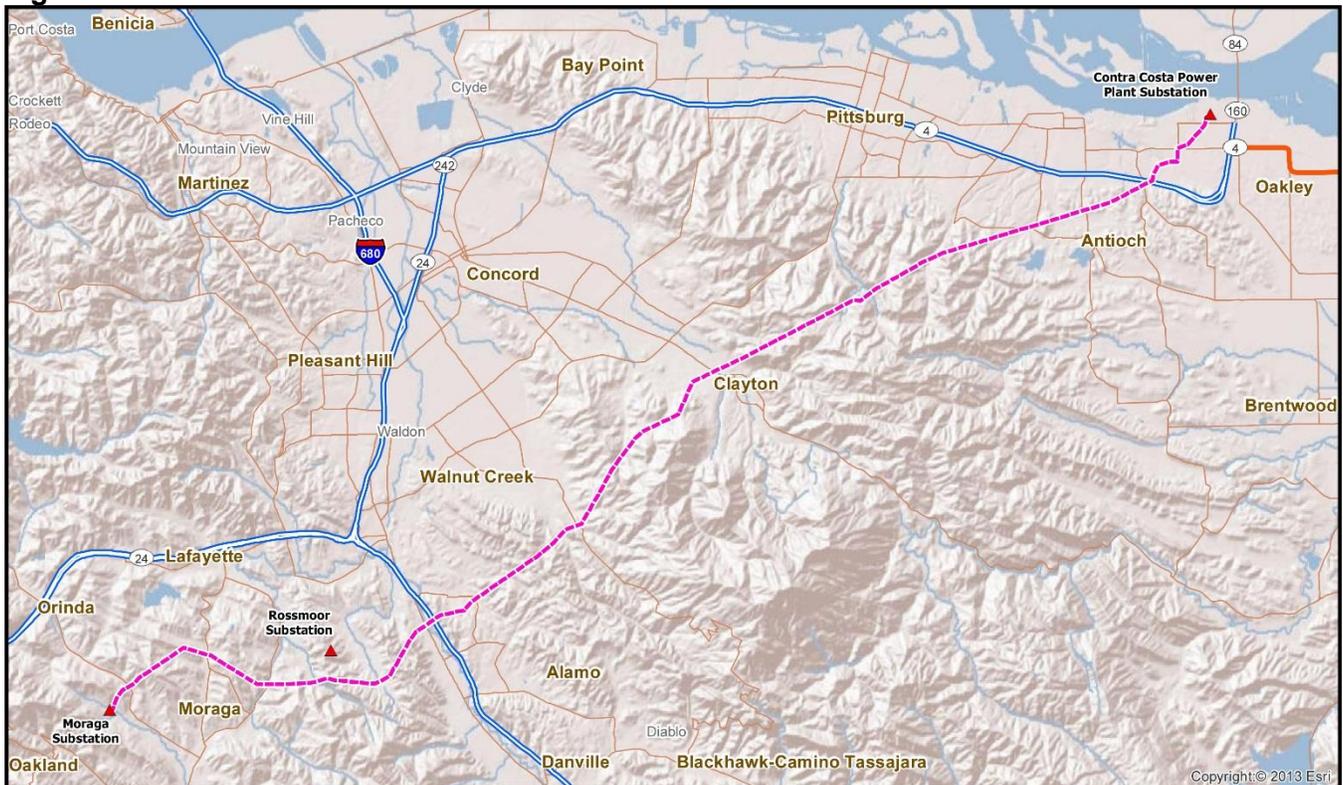
### KEEP INFORMED OF PROJECT MILESTONES

To be informed of milestones in the development of this proposed Water Quality Certification, any interested persons should enroll in the State Water Board's 401 Program e-mail notification service. Click the **SUBSCRIBE** button under the "Quick Links" section of the 401 Program Webpage at: [http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/water\\_issues/programs/cwa401/index.shtml](http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/water_issues/programs/cwa401/index.shtml)

Select "CWA 401 Certification and Wetlands Program." By enrolling in this list, you will receive notices for all current 401 project applications, including the project announced in this notice. You will need a valid e-mail address to use this service. If you do not have internet access or do not wish to participate in the Lyris list, contact the staff person named in the notice to express your interest in receiving notices by other means.

You can enroll or un-enroll at any time. The State Water Board will not disclose your name or e-mail information to any outside parties, and will not use this information for any other purpose.

**Figure 1:**



**Figure 1: Project Location Map**

**Contra Costa-Moraga 230 kV Reconductoring Project**

--- Contra Costa-Moraga 230 kV Line  
▲ Existing Substation



1:160,000

0 2 4 8 Miles

**\*Note: No regulatory decision on the application is implied or intended in this public notice.**